U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20472

FEMA

July 8, 2016
Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: PS Docket No. 15-94
Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System
PS Docket No. 15-91
Wireless Emergency Alerts

FCC Alerting Paradigm Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)
Reply Comment period closing 07/08/2016, as extended

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (PMO) offers the following reply comments.

In support of recommending that an EAS device be allowed to perform a "quick check" of IPAWS for a fully featured CAP version upon receipt of an EAS message from an over the air broadcast source (See *Timm Comments*, received 5/21, page 48-50 regarding NPRM paragraph v175-178; *Monroe Electronics Comments*, received 5/26, page 11, paragraph 7; and *Sage Alerting Comments*, received 6/08, page 8) FEMA makes the following statements regarding currently available technology allowing delivery of alerting authority originated multilingual messages to the public via IPAWS/EAS:

A capability for multilingual message delivery thorough use of multiple <info> block elements in a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) message was incorporated into the approved OASIS standard: *Common Alerting Protocol Version 1.1 USA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Profile Version 1.0*, and is also addressed in Section 3.7 of the *ECIG Recommendations for a CAP EAS Implementation Guide, Version1.0, 17 May, 2010.* Real-world functional capability of this multilingual message delivery capability has been demonstrated though the IPAWS/EAS Regional testing effort.

In consideration of the demonstrated intrinsic ability of IPAWS OPEN to deliver multilingual messages to the public via EAS devices the FEMA IPAWS PMO offers the following recommendations to further improve this particular message delivery methodology:

- As currently implemented IPAWS OPEN is incapable of conveying message text using non UTF-8 characters. The capability to deliver messages containing extended character sets, such as are common to written forms of many non-English languages, should be

developed and incorporated into IPAWS. (Note: It is not expected that all EAS devices will incorporate the ability to receive and properly display messages using an extended character set as a component of the EAS devices' base functionality.)

- To accommodate EAS Participants offering programming in languages other than English we further recommend that EAS devices be allow to perform a "quick check" of IPAWS upon receipt an EAS message via over-the-air (OTA) reception to see if IPAWS has a copy of the same message in CAP format. This could allow, for example, a Spanish language station to broadcast the Spanish language version of an English language EAS message as received OTA from a Local Primary station.